Amendments to the Claims:

    This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

    1-13. (Canceled)

    14. (Previously Presented) The machine readable structure of claim 17 wherein the machine readable structure comprises a wireless memory tag.

    15. (Previously Presented) The machine readable structure of claim 17 wherein the machine readable structure comprises a machine-readable symbol.

    16. (Canceled)

    17. (Currently Amended) A machine readable structure, comprising:

    a data structure storing tax information concerning a taxable item that is subject to a government-sanctioned tax for a sale or use thereof, the tax information including a tax payment condition indicator indicative of a status of a payment of the government-sanctioned tax on the taxable item, wherein the data structure also stores a product type identifier and a manufacturer identifier associated with the taxable item, along with the tax information; ~~and~~

    means for physically associating the machine readable structure with the taxable item<u>; and</u>

    <u>a write access code to allow said tax information stored in the data structure to be updated after the machine readable structure has been physically associated with the taxable item</u>.

18.   (Previously Presented) The machine readable structure of claim 17 wherein the data structure stores a taxing authority identifier.

19.   (Previously Presented) The machine readable structure of claim 17 wherein the data structure stores a date on which the government-sanctioned tax was paid.

20.   (Previously Presented) The machine readable structure of claim 17 wherein the data structure stores an amount of tax paid.

21.   (Previously Presented) The machine readable structure of claim 17 wherein the data structure stores an origin identifier corresponding to an origin of the taxable item.

22.   (Canceled)

23.   (Currently Amended) A computer-readable memory in a wireless memory device, the computer readable memory comprising:

a data structure having a number of records, each of the records identifiable by an identifier corresponding to a taxable item and storing a tax payment condition indicator indicative of a status of a payment of a tax on sale or use of the taxable item, wherein same said data structure further has records that store a product type identifier and a manufacturer identifier associated with the taxable item; and

a write access code to enable said records in the data structure to be updated, after the wireless memory device has been physically associated by affixing to the taxable item.

24.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable memory of claim 23 wherein the records further store a taxing authority identifier.

25.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable memory of claim 23 wherein the records further store a tax payment date indicative of a date on which the tax payment was made.

26.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable memory of claim 23 wherein the records further store an amount of tax paid.

27.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable memory of claim 23 wherein the records further store an origin identifier corresponding to an origin of the taxable item.

28 -31. (Canceled)

32.   (Currently Amended) The computer-readable memory of claim ~~30~~ 23 wherein the wireless memory device can be affixed to an opening of a container for the taxable item in a manner that the wireless memory device is damaged when the container is opened.

33.   (Previously Presented) The machine readable structure of claim 17 wherein said product type identifier, manufacturer identifier, and tax information that are stored by the data structure can all be read from the data structure and verified by a computer.

34.   (New) The machine readable structure of claim 17 wherein said write access code allows said tax information stored in the machine readable structure to be updated by writing or reprogramming, after the machine readable structure has been physically associated with the taxable item by being affixed to said taxable item.

35.   (New)   The machine readable structure of claim 17, further comprising a read access code that authorizes the tax information stored in the data structure to be read.

36.   (New)   A system to store and upload tax information, the system comprising:

a machine readable structure, having a data structure storing tax information concerning a taxable item that is subject to a government-sanctioned tax for a sale or use thereof, the tax information including a tax payment condition indicator indicative of a status of a payment of the government-sanctioned tax on the taxable item, wherein the data structure also stores a product type identifier and a manufacturer identifier associated with the taxable item, along with the tax information; and

an automatic data collection device having a reader to read said tax information from the machine readable structure and having an interrogator adapted to communicate a write access code to said machine readable structure to allow said tax information stored therein to be updated after the machine readable structure has been physically affixed to the taxable item.

37.   (New)   The system of claim 36 wherein the machine readable structure comprises a wireless memory tag.

38.   (New)   The system of claim 36 wherein the machine readable structure comprises a machine-readable symbol.

39.   (New)   The system of claim 36 wherein the machine readable structure further stores a read access code that authorizes said tax information stored in the data structure to be read by said data collection device.